Sample Work/Rest Schedule for Workers Wearing Normal Clothing*

The NIOSH work/rest schedule is based on air temperature, with adjustments for direct sunlight and humidity. It may not be applicable to all worksites. Other work/rest schedules are available, some of which are based on Wet Bulb Globe Temperature.

See reverse for temperature adjustments for the NIOSH work/rest schedule and examples of light, moderate, and heavy work.

Things you need to know:
- Continuous work in the heat is not advisable—you must take rest breaks periodically to allow your body to cool down.
- A variety of work/rest schedules are available that can be adapted to your worksite. Relying on self-pacing alone may not be sufficient.

Temperature (°F)	Light Work Minutes Work/Rest	Moderate Work Minutes Work/Rest	Heavy Work Minutes Work/Rest
90	Normal	Normal	Normal
91	Normal	Normal	Normal
92	Normal	Normal	Normal
93	Normal	Normal	Normal
94	Normal	Normal	Normal
95	Normal	Normal	45/15
96	Normal	Normal	45/15
97	Normal	Normal	40/20
98	Normal	Normal	35/25
99	Normal	Normal	35/25
100	Normal	45/15	30/30
101	Normal	40/20	30/30
102	Normal	35/25	25/35
103	Normal	30/30	20/40
104	**Normal**	**30/30**	**20/40**
105	Normal	25/35	15/45
106	45/15	20/40	Caution
107	40/20	15/45	Caution
108	**35/25**	**Caution**	**Caution**
109	30/30	Caution	Caution
110	15/45	Caution	Caution
111	Caution	Caution	Caution
112	Caution	Caution	Caution

Example
A worker performing heavy work in 104 °F temperatures should work for 20 minutes and rest for 40 minutes.

Example
A worker performing moderate work at 108 °F should use extreme caution! The risk for heat injury is high in this situation.

* From NIOSH Criteria for a Recommended Standard, Occupational Exposure to Heat and Hot Environments, https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2016-106/pdfs/2016-106.pdf. **Assumptions:** workers are physically fit, well-rested, fully hydrated, under age 40, and environment has 30% humidity and perceptible air movement.

Temperature Adjustments for this Work/Rest Schedule

Adjust the temperature in the table based on:

Environmental conditions	AND	Humidity

- Full sun (no clouds): Add 13 °F
- Partly cloudy/overcast: Add 7 °F
- No shadows visible, in the shade, or at night: No adjustment

- 40% humidity: Add 3 °F
- 50% humidity: Add 6 °F
- 60% humidity or more: Add 9 °F

Example Adjustment

Conditions at a mine are 90 °F, with partly cloudy skies and 50% humidity. Adjust the table as follows:

Add 7 °F for partly cloudy skies and 6 °F for 50% humidity, to arrive at 103 °F.

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Examples of Work at Different Intensity Levels

Light work

- Operating equipment
- Inspection work
- Walking on flat, level ground
- Using light hand tools (wrench, pliers, etc.). However, this may be moderate work depending on the task
- Travel by conveyance

Moderate work

- Jack-leg drilling
- Installing ground support
- Loading explosives
- Carrying equipment/supplies weighing 20–40 pounds
- Using hand tools (shovel, fin-hoe, scaling bar) for short periods

Heavy work

- Climbing
- Carrying equipment/supplies weighing 40 pounds or more
- Installing utilities
- Using hand tools (shovel, fin-hoe, scaling bar) for extended periods

Case Study: Use of Work/Rest Schedule

A crew was shoveling ore out from under the primary conveyor at a surface mine in Arizona in August. The high temperature that day was 113 °F. The crew was rotating in 10-minute shifts and hydrating between shifts. Coworkers noticed signs of heat illness in two employees, and they were transferred to the medical station for evaluation. From there they were sent to the hospital, where they were given IV saline and released home. Both employees recovered after rehydration at the hospital.

Lessons Learned

In extreme heat, even a work/rest schedule may not eliminate the risk of heat illness. In this case, use of work/rest schedules, frequent hydration, and team monitoring helped keep this situation from becoming even more serious. Without those safety precautions the workers could have potentially suffered more severe heat illness, possibly including heat stroke, which is life threatening.